

# Catching The Thermals

A sailplane flight over the lush Heber Valley and the surrounding mountains is an experience that is not soon forgotten.

Your seatbelt is strapped tight in the cockpit of the sailplane. Your pilot signals the tow plane ahead that you are ready to roll. Slowly the rope tightens between the two planes and you are moving down the runway. In a few seconds, you are off the ground climbing slowly toward Mt. Timpanogos. You can still see the snow on the sides of the 12,000 ft. mountain.

Soon as you and the tow plane are climbing, there are a few "bumps." While you wonder what they are, your pilot smiles, "A good day," he says. "The thermals are strong." This he explains, means that the heat generated on the ground will produce good lift and keep a motorless craft aloft with ease. Sailplanes are capable of staying in the sky for many hours and traveling several hundred miles on a good day. The next thing you notice is a "bang from the front of the glider when the tow rope releases. Then silence, except for a whistle of the glider moving through the air, you hear nothing. You are as free to soar on the currents of the air as the hawk. Your pilot enters a thermal and you rise swiftly over the hills. Boats on Deer Creek Reservoir below become specks. The green fields of the Valley grow smaller and the vast mountains spread out on the horizon

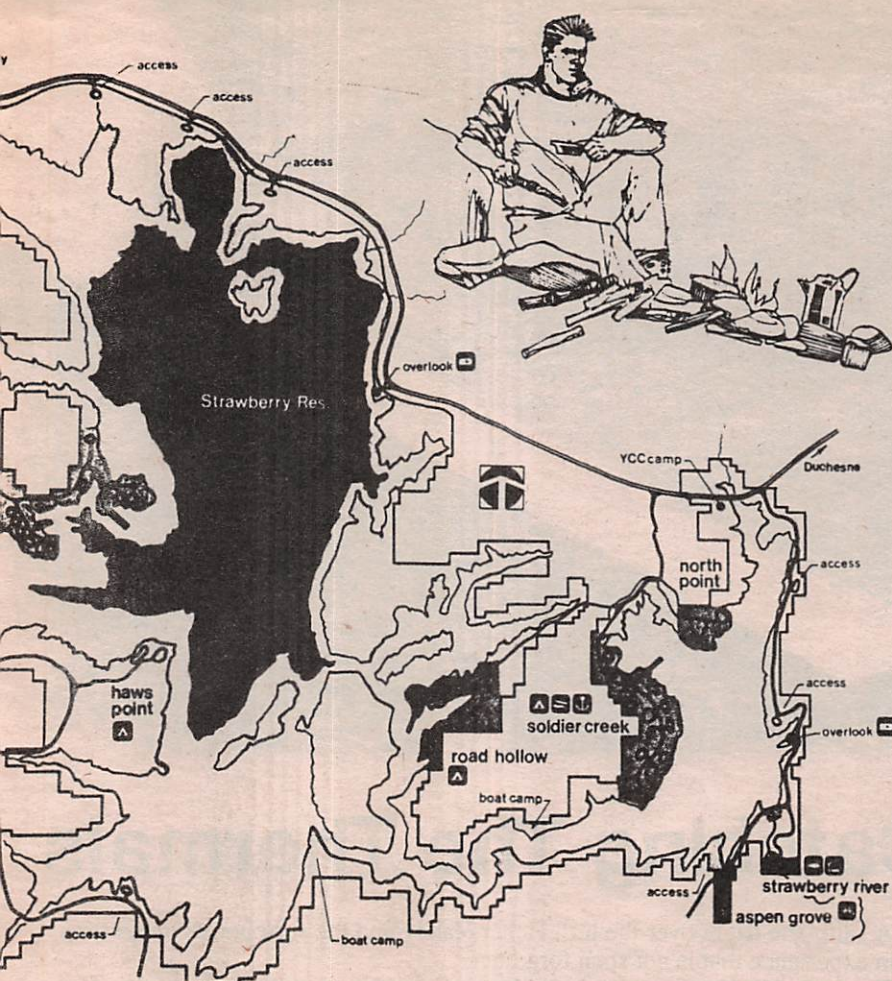
Headed back toward the field and with a final bump on the runway, you are jolted back to reality. Gravity still prevails and all must end where it started. For about twenty minutes though, you have been in the sky soaring silently as the eagle.

High Valley Aviation at Heber Airport offers daily airplane and glider flights over Heber Valley and the Wasatch, Timpanogos, and Uinta Wilderness Ranges.





# Best



Before Strawberry Reservoir was born out of necessity to water thirsty Utah Valley, Strawberry Creek, which crossed Strawberry Valley, flowed with history. Father's Escalante and Dominguez pushed west through the Valley in 1776. In the early 1800's, Ute Indians summered in the gentle sloping basin and munched on wild strawberries growing amidst the tall grasses and sagebrush. Hence, the name Strawberry Valley.

The original Strawberry Reservoir, constructed in 1906 primarily to provide water for irrigation use, was one of the first large scale transmountain diversions for the Colorado River Basin and one of the first Federal water development projects in the West. In 1973, the Soldier Creek Dam was constructed. Later in 1985, the existing Strawberry Dam and Indian Creek Dam were partially removed to merge the two.

Strawberry Reservoir, located at the top of Daniel's Canyon, 30 miles east of Heber, is reputed to be Utah's finest "fishing hole." With 17,160 acres of high level water well-stocked with trout, it is no surprise Strawberry provides consistently good fishing. To keep fishing up to par, 1.2 million cut throat and rainbow trout and kokanee salmon are stocked annually.

Boating on Strawberry Reservoir is becoming increasingly popular. Concrete launching ramps at Strawberry Bay and Soldier Creek complexes accommodate larger craft. Smaller boats may be hand-launched at several access points around the reservoir. The marina at Strawberry Bay offers boating services, including rentals, gas, deep moorage, and convenience store.

This summer, the government is poisoning the lake in order to clear out undesirable fish. The lake will be closed for boating in the recreational area bordering Highway 40 from Aug. 17 to Sept. 1. Some of the access roads to the tributary headwaters will be closed as needed from three to five days during the time Aug. 3 through 25.

Reservoir fishing will be prohibited from Aug. 16 until Jan. 1 and tributary stream fishing will close Aug. 3 and reopen at a normal time next July 1, 1991. This year, there will be no collection of killed trout due to FDA regulations.

Observation overlooks the bay marina facility and Forest Service Visitor's Center will remain open as normal and dispense information concerning the poisoning.

However, Strawberry Reservoir is more than a fisherman's paradise. Boasting 543 campsites within three different complexes (Strawberry Bay, Soldier Creek, Aspen Grove), Strawberry has also come to be a popular favorite for camping. Campsites in undeveloped areas are available for the more seasoned campers.

The backpacker, who wants to trade in city hussle for the tranquility of aspens and firs, can "lose" himself in the Uinta National Forest above Strawberry. The Strawberry Recreational Area is a beautiful area with